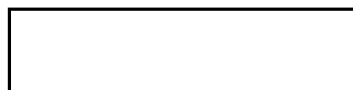


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FBIS 30 '111

STAT ISRAELI, LEBANESE TO BEGIN TALKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

 TEL AVIV IDF RADIO IN HEBREW 1245 GMT DEC 82

(TEXT) THE TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON WILL BEGIN BEFORE CHRISTMAS, NAMELY, WITHIN 3 DAYS. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED A SHORT WHILE AGO BY U.S. MEDIATOR MORRIS DRAPER IN A TELEPHONE CALL FROM JERUSALEM TO PRESIDENT AMIN AL-JUMAYYIL IN BEIRUT.

THE LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER, SHAFIQ AL-WAZZAN, WAS THE ONE TO ANNOUNCE THIS TO JOURNALISTS, ADDING THAT ISRAEL, LEBANON AND THE UNITED STATES, ALL AGREED TO THE BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN 3 DAYS. THE VENUE OF THE DIRECT DELIBERATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED YET, BUT IT IS BELIEVED IN BEIRUT THAT THEY WILL BE CONDUCTED IN KHALDAH, BEIRUT'S SOUTHERN SUBURB, OR IN GENEVA IN SWITZERLAND. THIS HAS BEEN LEARNED BY OUR ARAB AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT GAY BEKHOR.

STAT 21 DEC 1331Z 